



Small Projects Day - 11/6/2019, Section 2: Resource Specialist Review

Project Name: White Pine/Oak/Hickory Timber Stand Improvement

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to that proposed action. Potential presence of extraordinary circumstances must be addressed by the appropriate resource specialists.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO			
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (ANIMALS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist</i>	10/28/2019 & edited 11/21/2019 & 6/11/2020 SG	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: C88 S4 is a known northern long-eared bat location and is within 5 miles of an Indiana bat hibernaculum.							
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Animals)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist</i>	10/28/2019 & edited 11/21/2019 & 6/11/2020 SG	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: C88 S4 is a known blue-spotted salamander location.							
Describe Mitigations required: No cutting of trees >4" DBH during NLEB pup season (June 1-August 31). Cut outside of active season (April 1 – Oct 31) if possible for all stands. Cutting in C88 S4 is prohibited during April 15 – October 30.							
BE Complete	Y	N	USFWS Consultation Complete? Consultation required. Submitted 6/11/2020.		Y	N	N/A
Date Completed: Section 2 serves as the BE. Finalized 6/11/2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Completed: [expected by 7/11/2020] 7/13/2020 SJG		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (PLANTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Plants)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	October 30, 2019	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: Mitigations expected to be effective							
Describe Mitigations required: Have botanist inventory stand 11 in compartment 44 prior to implementing the project at this site. For any RFSS found there, and for the two RFSS known from stand 4 within compartment 88, avoid work that would trample any of these							

¹ FSH 1909.15 Section 30

² The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstance exist.





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
species. For any RFSS found, consult with botanist regarding shade requirements, and do not alter shade for those that cannot tolerate it.						
BE Complete?	Y	N				
Date Completed: October 30, 2019	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Flood plains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mears/Biologist	10/29/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	10/28/2019 & edited 11/21/2019 & 6/11/2020 SG
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: GIS data indicate a wetland bordering and within C66 S39. Additional unmapped wetlands may be present.						
Describe Mitigations required: Cutting within the wetland buffer allowable in this case as the proposed treatment will benefit the wetland in the long term. Some trees shading the wetland must be retained.						
Army Corps of Engineer permit needed?	Y	N				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Municipal watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mears/Biologist	10/29/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated Wilderness Areas						
Wilderness Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lauderdale, Manchester Rec Program Manager; Knox Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr	10/24/2019 and 10/28/19





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: No proposed actions in wilderness areas. No actions in proximity to affect wilderness character. Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated National Recreation Areas NRA Name <u>Moosalamoo</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knox Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr	10/28/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: No negative effects expected with adherence to recreation and visual mitigations Describe Mitigations required:						
National Scenic Trails Trail Name(s) <u>Appalachian Trail</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lauderdale, Manchester Rec Program Manager; Knox Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr	10/24/2019 and 10/28/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: No proposed actions in AT corridor. Describe Mitigations required:						
Eligible Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Type (s) <u>Recreation</u> River Name(s) <u>North Branch Middlebury River</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lauderdale, Manchester Rec Program Manager; Knox Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr	10/24/2019 and 10/28/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: The No Branch Middlebury River is an Eligible Recreational River with outstandingly remarkable values for botanical and ecological resources (Forest Plan, page 107). The effects from the project associated with the outstandingly remarkable values identified for this river are not expected to be adverse, and thus will not preclude it from future consideration for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Describe Mitigations required:						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas (RACR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lanston NEPA	10/25/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project not located within RACR boundary.						
Describe Mitigations required: None						
Research Natural Areas (RNAs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	10/28/2019
RNA Name(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required: None						
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Triplett Archeologist	10/24/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Triplett Archeologist	10/24/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required: Do not drop trees on cultural resources.						





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>A. Quintana, Soil Scientist</i>	<i>10/22/2019</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project as designed complies with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and forest plan standards and guidelines for the protection of soil resources. Describe Mitigations required: none						
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mears/Biologist	10/29/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Describe Mitigations required:						
Visuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lauderdale, Manchester Rec Program Manager; Knox Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr</i>	<i>10/24/2019 and 10/28/19</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Forest Plan standards and guidelines along with mitigations below will minimize affects to scenery. Describe Mitigations required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where treatment takes place adjacent to developed recreation sites (Minnie Baker TH), downed trees/slash shall be pulled back 50 feet from the recreation site. Where treatment takes place adjacent to trails and/or improved private property, pull downed trees/slash back 25 feet from property boundaries or both sides of trail. Organic material should be piled no higher than two feet from the ground. Where treatment takes place adjacent to roads open to the public, pull back downed trees/slash a minimum of 15 feet from the road edge. Organic material should be piled no higher than two feet from the ground. 						
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lauderdale, Manchester Rec Program Manager; Knox</i>	<i>10/24/2019 and 10/28/19</i>





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
					<i>Roc/Mid Rec Program Mngr</i>	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Recreation and Winter Sports Team programs to coordinate proposed work along/near Catamount, Minnie Baker Trail and MB Connector Trail, and Wild Wings ski trails. • No trail shall require permanent re-routing as a result of this project. Temporary rerouting or closures may be an option selected when necessary for safety and when other options are not viable • Trails shall be protected during vegetation management operations. Any damage to trails incidental to project activities will be repaired in a timely manner. This includes repairing damage to waterbars, removal of slash and debris, smoothing of ruts in trails, and removal of overhead hazards. • Trees shall be felled away from the trail prism whenever possible. • When practicable, plan project activities outside of the typical season of use of trails and recreation sites impacted. • If project activities occur along trails, warning signs shall be posted and the trails shall be evaluated for temporary closure or re-route. • No project activities shall occur within developed recreation sites (Minnie Baker TH). Warning signs shall be posted at developed rec sites if project activities are occurring in close proximity. 						
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mears/Biologist	10/29/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist</i>	10/28/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Improvement of stands, particularly the oak component, will benefit many species of wildlife. Noted bear use of pin cherry in C41 S11.						
Describe Mitigations required: Reserve or promote pin cherry in C41 S11 as much as possible. Cutting after August (per TES mitigations) will additionally protect many non-listed species of wildlife.						





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Ecological (Special Areas; Significant Ecological Features; Ecosystem Composition, Structure & Function)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist</i>	10/28/2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Promoting white pine and oak in these stands improves forest diversity.						
Describe Mitigations required: None						
Non-native Invasive Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	October 30, 2019
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Mitigations expected to be effective						
Describe Mitigations required: If there is, indeed, overlap between the barberry and honeysuckle infestations on the ground, do not do any TSI work where this occurs. For this and all other locations, clean equipment and gear prior to accessing the site, and prior to leaving. If any infestations are found where work occurs, avoid disturbing the ground or opening the canopy where they occur.						
Range (FLNF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mattrick/DR	11/06/19
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (as applicable)	INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO		
Timber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Braun/Silviculturist	10/17/19
Remarks: Silviculturist needs to be involved with treatment specifications. Report firewood opportunities resulting from treatment to timber personnel.				





OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (as applicable)	INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO		
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mattrick/DR	11/06/19
Remarks:				
Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Austin/FE	10/29/2019
Remarks:				
Accessibility/Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DMarks / SOH Mgr	10/29/2019
Remarks:				
Survey/Landline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austin/Staff Officer	10/29/2019
Remarks: Determine/mark adjacent private property boundaries.				

QUESTIONS FOR PROPONENT:**NOTES:****Responsible Official:** John Sinclair

Documentation Level and CE Category (DM, LTF): DM (e)(6) Timber stand and/or wildlife improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.

Who to include for scoping: Town of Ripton (including conservation commission), Town of Leicester, Moosalamoo Association, VNRC, VT Audubon, adjacent private landowners, other towns, Send to SOPA mailing list. Wild Wings Nordic Area.

Forest Plan consistency: Yes – Emphasis on S-4 for Wildlife Reserve Trees in C66 S39 which applies to nearly the entire stand.

Field visit (who & when): Botany surveys will need to be done prior to implementation.

Desired decision date: July 2020

Desired implementation date: August 2020

